

FEB 15 1959

Circ.: S. Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP73-00149R

CPYRGHT

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:



Associated Press Wirephoto
Secretary of State Dulles and President Eisenhower

An Historic 35 Minutes

BY ALEXANDER F. JONES

Executive Editor, Herald-American

John Foster Dulles, secretary of state, has cancer. His doctors discovered the recurrence of carcinoma when they operated on him for hernia.

They told him the facts immediately for you do not try to dissemble with a man like Mr. Dulles.

President Eisenhower went to him as soon as possible and the two men talked for 35 minutes.

When he came out of the sickroom the President issued a statement stating the stricken secretary would continue on leave while receiving treatment.

"I will, of course, be in close touch with him, constantly," the President said.

Notice that word "constantly."

The President will do just that, too, for these two men are very close. There is an affection here that goes far beyond their mutual admiration for the abilities of the other.

What did these two men talk about in their 35 minutes together?

It must have been a dramatic dialogue, packed with personal, national and international highlights.

No one knows except the two men, of course, and they will never tell.

But we do know the two men and something of how they think.

One would not be far afield to deduct that President Eisenhower's great concern was for the recovery of his first secretary and that he had a cheerful report on progress in modern treatment of cancer.

Yet the President, from recent reports, has slowed down markedly in most of his activities. And it is less than four years since he was in a hospital bed at Denver. He has withstood bad news.

Mr. Dulles would listen to the Chief Executive's efforts to cheer him up with that questioning smile of his, but his mind would be racing along, as usual, considering the next step in the most pressing issue on his desk.

John Foster Dulles is a man with a mission. He trained all his life to be secretary of state. He loves his job, which he started to talk about when he was a schoolboy. His mother's father, John W. Foster, was secretary of state. His uncle, Robert Lansing, was secretary of state. His sister, Eleanor Dulles, is a career diplomat. His brother, Allan Dulles, is a close associate as director of Central Intelligence.

The foreign policy of the United States is this man's life.

So we can be sure as he laid on his Walter Reed hospital bed, with the President of the United States sitting alongside eager to lessen the shock of the dreadful news, that the stricken statesman was calmly concerned with how much time he has left to accomplish objectives he considers of immediate importance.

I am confident resignation was not mentioned by either man. But we can be sure he left the sickroom with a dozen Dulles suggestions as to who was to do what as quickly as possible.

A good many years of service for this nation was represented in that sickroom with Dwight D. Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles in it—two old campaigners who have seen service on many fronts and who have always had the welfare of their homeland as first consideration.

Of one thing I am completely certain—the President was whispering a prayer for his first secretary as he looked back before quietly closing the door.

In this we can all join him.